STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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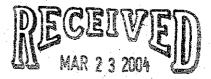
March 17, 2004

Mr. Roy J. Schepens
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Schepens:

Re: Letter dated November 12, 2003, to R. J. Schepens, USDOE, from J. J. Lyon, Ecology, "Extension on the Approval of the Single Shell Tank (SST) Retrieval Sequence and Double Shell Tank (DST) Space Evaluation Report"

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received the SST Retrieval Sequence and DST Space Evaluation Report, Revision 2, to fulfill Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (HFFACO) Milestone M-045-02L and M-046-00J.

Ecology delayed the approval of the report until March 31, 2004, to allow the completion of the Milestone M-045-00C negotiations. During the negotiations of the M-45-00C milestone, it was determined the SST Retrieval Sequence and DST Space Evaluation Report would be revised to reflect the SST retrieval pool. The current timeline puts the SST pool to be decided by the first part of April allowing the report to be updated and resubmitted to Ecology by the end of May. The revised report would then be reviewed by Ecology in the following months. Ecology's approval would be delayed until completion of public review and final signatures on the M-045-00C. Therefore, Ecology is taking an extension on the approval of the revised document until August 12, 2004.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (509) 736-5707 or Jeff Lyon at (509) 736-3098.

Sincerely,

Brenda K. Jentzen
Environmental Specialist
Nuclear Waste Program

BKJ:nc

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
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        Administrative Record: SST, DST, Tanks Waste Storage